

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. Applicants respectfully believe that no new matter has been introduced.

Before turning to the art cited and relied upon by the Examiner, a review of the present invention is in order. FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing the schematic constitution of the color-designating server 11 in an embodiment of the present invention. Reference code 101 represents a controller which controls data in the color-designating server 11. Reference code 102 represents a database 102 comprising a matchable color database 102a which stores data needed to determine matchable colors from data such as the type of resin, the type of dye or pigment, and the ratio when matching them, and a customer database 102b, which stores user information comprising use data relating to the product to be colored in correlation with a user ID (identifier) which specifies the user.

The constitution of the customer database 102b will be explained using FIG. 10B. In FIG. 10B, "user ID" and "password" comprise identification data, registered in order to identify the user. "General data" is data such as the user's name (corporate name), address, contact information, and the like. "Use data" comprises data relating to requirements, molding methods, resin used, and the like, which vary according to the type of business of the user and the like. "History data" comprises

data relating to the history of resins previously ordered by each user. "Cost data" relates to individual price data for each of the users, based on previous transaction statistics and order quantities.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing the operation of the color-designating server 11 in an embodiment of the present invention. When a user terminal 13 has accessed the color-designating server 11, the color-designating server 11 displays the top page of the color-matching system on the user terminal 13 (step S1). Here, when the user uses the color-designating system, the color-designating server 11 displays the log-in screen shown in FIG. 4 to the user terminal 13. In the case where the user has already registered his user ID, the user enters his user ID in the user ID entry box 41 and enters his password in the password entry box 42. Having received this information, there is an authentication of the user by consulting the customer database 102b and confirming the user ID and password (step S2).

A user having an unregistered user ID is also able to designate colors via the color-designating server 11, but with restrictions e.g. it is not possible for him to calculate cost etc.

Subsequently, when the product requirement for the authenticated user in the "use data" of the customer database 102b is limited to a shopping bag, the color data transmission processor 105 shades the color space to show the color gamut, i.e. the region of colors for the shopping bag which

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/026,823**
Amendment filed November 15, 2004
Reply to OA dated July 14, 2004

can be matched by combining the resins and dyes or pigments, as for example shown in FIG. 5, and displays the color-designating screen of colors which can be designated in the color gamut to the user terminal 13 (step S3). See pages 12-16 of the specification, and FIGS. 2-5, 10A, and 10B.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USP 6,507,824 (**Yon**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yon fails to describe, teach, or suggest features of the present invention relating to the customer database 102(b), in combination with other aspects of the present invention.

Yon fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claims 1 and 12, as amended: “a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, specifying users of the color-designating server; and wherein when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal”, in combination with the other claimed features. Claims 2-7 and 9-11 depend from claim 1. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 12.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/026,823**
Amendment filed November 15, 2004
Reply to OA dated July 14, 2004

Yon fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claims 16 and 19, as amended: “a third step of specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, and when the user has been identified, a fourth step of transmitting the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal”, in combination with the other claimed features. Claim 17 depends from claim 16.

Yon fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 18, as amended: “specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, when the user has been identified, transmitting the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 1-19 should be withdrawn.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/026,823**
Amendment filed November 15, 2004
Reply to OA dated July 14, 2004

Applicants have requested the benefit of the filing date of a prior foreign application, and have filed the requisite certified copy of said prior foreign application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner: (1) acknowledge the claim for foreign priority benefit under 35 USC 119; and (2) acknowledge that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP

Darren R. Crew

Darren R. Crew
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 37,806

DRC/llf
Atty. Docket No. **011767**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time